---== ST REPORT INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MAGAZINE ==---
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"The Original 16/32bit Online Magazine"
from
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> 08/16/91: STReport #7.33 The Original 16/32 bit Online Magazine!

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STReport's support BBS, NODE 350, invites BBS systems, worldwide, to participate in the Fido/F-Net Mail Network. Or, call Node 350 direct at 904-786-4176, and enjoy the excitement of exchanging information relative to the Atari ST computer arena through an excellent International ST Mail Network. All registered F-NET - Crossnet SysOps are welcome to join the STReport Crossnet Conference. The Crossnet Conference Code is #34813, and the "Lead Node" is # 350. All systems are welcome and invited to actively participate. Support Atari Computers; Join Today!

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> The Editor’s Podium

The most amazing result to come out of the recent flurry of activity concerning the reproduction of online messages from public message areas of GEnie’s ST RT and whether permission is granted to use these messages is quite creative. You see, as editor, I have instructed the Staff of STReport that; if in the event someone should completely deny the use of messages they post in GEnie’s ST RT, paraphrasing is the order of the day. Creative license, in the world of publishing, is an absolute delight. As for those from our favorite company who have denied the use of "their messages" so be it. But be prepared for some very eloquent paraphrasing. To those very same "modern day, online mavins"... we say how very original, "self imposed censorship". Another wonderful method of keeping Atari a secret.

The times are changing... the fall season is right around the corner and what do we find ... Once again Atari is ready for another landmark sales season. After all, it was Atari who so confidently stated that we should plan on the opening of the new school semesters as the real marketing time of the year for computers. Well dear hearts, here we go again... Will all the well-stocked dealers please step forward and be counted among those dealers who are "oh.. so very excited". The dealers are excited alright, almost to the level of civil riot! They have been getting the old, familiar spiel.. "We will have plenty of product in two to three weeks"... ALL spring and summer long.

Every year, the Atari community, dealers, developers and users, are dealt a real first class kick in the teeth when they’re forced to witness Christmas season after Christmas season become a total and extraordinary sales flop. Why? Because the executive group at Atari seems to be incapable of delivering product at the proper times of the year and in the quantities needed to sustain a respectable dealer corps. Sure, they can "show" all sorts of great things at Comdex etc... But when it comes to getting product to the dealers? Just in case somebody hasn’t informed them.. Christmas IS a BIG sales time of the year. Many of the dealers listened to the Atari "wizards" and swallowed the "New school year" premise only to find that there was NO PRODUCT at that time of the year too. Yessir, it would certainly appear that the corporate heads out there are in the same place as the product, nowhere to be found.

Recently, there has been a flurry of comments about how Atari didn’t intentionally do this or that. That’s all well and good but eventually, the "buck must stop somewhere". So WHERE is FSMGDOS? Where are all the new STe and TT products? Why is Word Perfect looking away? Is it true the 520STe has only two Simm sockets? Its a given that no-one at Atari is doing any of these things "intentionally or on purpose" with some devious, degenerate plan in mind. But one must admit, the entire picture screams of sheer incompetence at the highest and most dangerous levels.

Atari must re-examine their priorities and hopefully, they will come to the same conclusion most of us reached years ago. They MUST advertise. They MUST keep the customer as their prime concern. Being witness to a late night national TV commentary where Atari is proclaimed already dead for some time is a bit much and its ALL because NOBODY BUT NOBODY except its users KNOW THEY EXIST! I blame Atari for this tragedy completely. Advertise! Then, "God willing" , this will give us all the joy of watching the company go crazy trying to fill all its huge back-orders. And by some quirk of destiny we will see Atari begin LISTENING to and HEEDING its user’s ADVICE for real.

By now, it should be no secret that Atari's current methods of doing business are of little or no value and that the ultra "wuss-like" approach to the US market has gained them no respect at all. The times are changing... can Atari change along with them? Only time will tell.

On a sad note, the head of Atari Australia has submitted his resignation. Best of luck to him wherever he goes or undertakes.

The times and attitudes in the computer marketplace are indeed changing worldwide. It appears that more than just those in Atari's US market are becoming "sick and tired of being sick and tired".

Thanks for your continued support!!

Ralph.....

(The "WOW, is My Face Red" Corner)

In our STR732 editorial we stated, "there's also going to be times when we blow it, and we want our readers to let us know when that happens". Well, it happened in that same editorial. We quoted a partial post from the ST Report fnet from Bill Merick and then said,

> The only comments that I made about either FSM GDOS or the XControl Panel were in the following editorial comment:
>
> "As another week goes by, while most folks anxiously await the highly touted new "Standard" FSMGDOS. The XControl Panel is here and it is everything we were told it would be and then some. We have reported that B. Rehbock said FSM would be released August 1, 1991. We shall see."

Our memory and research were not good enough in this case. The STR730 editorial that we quoted from did have another paragraph that discussed FSMGDOS.

> I have heard rumors that many folks already have a copy of FSM and that its in widespread circulation in many "closed circles". If such is the case, then why must the loyal users wait and wait and wait? Especially if they have BOUGHT programs that will perform much with FSM in use? If for no other reason that to keep the users informed, the least the powers that be could do is keep info about the progress of this puppy at hand for all to see. Oh well, nobody said things would be easy.

We want to thank one of our dedicated and long time readers, John Nagy, for bringing this to our attention. For you who don't know Mr. Nagy, he is the Editor-in-Chief of Atari User Magazine, and as a fellow editor, he knows that mistakes can and do happen.

""

> STReport's Staff The regulars and this week's contributors!

Publisher - Editor

Ralph F. Mariano

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"REPORTING ABOUT ATARI... NOT FOR THEM."

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE ATARI FORUMS (August 16)

WIN $25 COMPUSERVE CONNECT-TIME CREDITS

Traditionally, summertime has been the slowest time of the year for online activity in the Atari telecommunications community. The CompuServe Atari Forums would like to help boost this activity with a promotion that just about anybody can win!

We're looking for new and interesting files for the file libraries of Atari ST Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS) and the Atari ST Productivity Forum (GO ATARIPRO). Twice each month, during the months of July, August, and September, the sysops of the Atari Forums will award a $25 CompuServe connect time credit to the individual who uploads the best new file to Library 1 ("NEW UPLOADS"). This $25 credit can be applied to *ANY* service on CompuServe, not just time spent inside the Atari Forums!

What defines the "best" new upload? Factors in judging will be uniqueness, general interest (the number of downloads received), quality of graphics (if applicable), usefulness or entertainment value.

All uploads to Library 1 ("NEW UPLOADS") will automatically be entered into this promotion. Of course, uploads of files already existant in our libraries do not count. (Although, new versions of previous entries are eligible.) You do not need to be the author of the upload to win, but you MUST have sufficient rights to the program to make it an acceptable upload according to CompuServe operating rules (public domain and shareware programs are acceptable, for example.)

In case of duplicate uploads of the exact same file, the sysops will accept files based upon time of the first uploaded copy. The first upload period will run from July 1st thru July 15th (inclusive). Judging will be done by the sysop staff of the Atari Forums (influenced by comments from the membership, so be sure to let us know which new files you like and why!)

One credit will be awarded to the best new upload in ATARIARTS and another for the best new upload in ATARIPRO. Please address any questions to Ron Luks [76703,254] via CompuServe Mail (EMAIL) or a message in any of the Atari Forums.

NEW PLAY-BY-MODEM GAMES IN ATARIARTS

The following files are now available in LIBRARY 1 ("New Uploads") of the Atari ST Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS) courtesy of Forum member David Becker:

BGAMMO.ARC - Online backgammon can be played over the phone lines with a modem. Many options including the ability to play the computer make this a fun and challenging monochrome game. Freeware.

PAIGOW.ARC - Las vegas style PaiGow poker. Play against the computer or over the phone line with a friend! Monochrome freeware.

PROGRAM OF THE WEEK FROM DOUBLE CLICK

Download file DCMSAV.ARC from LIBRARY 13 of the Atari Vendors Forum (GO ATARIVEN) for Double Click Software's program of the week. DC Mouse Saver will turn the mouse cursor off after a defined time of no mouse activity and turn the mouse cursor back on with any mouse activity.

NEW IN ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM

Download file APFCAT.ARC from LIBRARY 1 ("New Uploads") of the Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO) for a complete catalog of files available for download for the Portfolio.

BJ Gleason has uploaded PBASIC version 4.7 as file PBAS47.ZIP in LIBRARY 1 of the Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO). Many bug fixes and a few new features included. Plus, a compression utility to reduce the size PBASIC source code, and a menu driven sample program driver.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW COMPUSERVE PALMTOP FORUM

The CompuServe Palmtop Forum will cover all palmtop organizers and computers other than the Portfolio, which will remain in its own forum. Please drop by and take a look around. Type GO PALMTOP at any CompuServe service prompt.

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"GO APORTFOLIO TO ACCESS THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM"

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> CPU STATUS REPORT LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS
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Issue #33

Compiled by: Lloyd E. Pulley, Sr.

--Sunnyvale, California ATARI SHOWS A PROFIT FOR 2ND QUARTER

Atari Corp. today reported operating results for the 2nd quarter ended June 30, 1991. Sales for the 2nd quarter of 1991 were $49.2 million as compared to $84.9 million for 1990. During the quarter, sales were adversely affected by the company's transition to subcontractors for assembly operations, as well as poor economic conditions in Europe, and the adverse effects of exchange rates.

Net income for the quarter was $30.4 million, or $.53 per share, as compared to $1.5 million, or $.03 per share, for 1990. During the quarter, the company sold the land and building of its Taiwan manufacturing facility, which resulted in a gain of $40.9 million after deducting certain expenses, including severance and land transfer tax, which were directly associated with the closure of the facility. The income generated by the sale of the facility is subject only to land transfer tax.

As a result of adverse exchange rates during the quarter, the company experienced a loss on exchange of $4.1 million as compared to an exchange gain of $1.7 million for the same quarter of 1990.

In the second quarter of 1991, interest expense net of interest income was reduced to $0.8 million as compared to $1.2 million in 1990 as a result of the company's repurchase of part of its 5 1/4 percent subordinated convertible debentures.

Since year end, the company has reduced inventories by $18 million, eliminated all short-term debt, amounting to approximately $28 million and has a current cash position of approximately $65 million. At June 30, 1991, the company's current ratio improved to 4-to-1, compared to 2-to-1 in December 1990, and its debt to equity ratio improved to 0.8 as compared to 1.7 at December 1990.

--New York, New York

COMMODORE EARNINGS SOAR;
ALSO PLANS NEW PHILIPPINE PLANT

Bucking the recent computer industry trend to gloomy financial results, Commodore International has reported a more than 30-fold increase in net income for fiscal 1991. Commodore earned net income before extraordinary items of $57.4 million in the year ended June 30, up from $1.5 million last year.

An extraordinary charge of $9.2 million having to do with settlement of a court case brought the final 1991 net income figure down to $48.2 million. Commodore's annual sales rose 18 percent, from $887.3 million to $1.047.2 million.

For the fourth quarter, Commodore reported net income of $3.3 million on sales of $216.5 million. The quarterly figure included a reduction in income tax accruals no longer required. Before that reduction, Commodore had a pre-tax quarterly loss of $4.3 million -- less than the previous year's pre-tax fourth-quarter loss of $14 million.

Announcing the results, Irving Gould, Commodore's chairman and chief executive, said the results reflect the company's strength in Europe, which accounted for more than 85% of the company's total sales.

Commodore said sales of all its products grew in the fourth quarter of fiscal 1991. Sales of the IBM-compatible line of PCs rose 35%, sales of the venerable Commodore 64 increased 30% and those of the Amiga line grew by 20%, the company said.

Commodore will invest at least $9.1 million to set up a plant in the Philippines to assemble computers. Reporting from Manila, the French Agence France-Presse International News service quotes a trade

department spokesman as saying the plant will be set up in an export processing zone just outside Manila and will produce interface cards and also will assemble hardware.

AFP says the company expects the plant to start commercial operations by next June, with the bulk of its output to be exported to Europe. It will be the first foreign firm to assemble computers in this country.

--Mountain View, California — SUN MICROSYSTEMS EARNINGS GO THROUGH THE ROOF

Sun Microsystems' workstation market share continues to increase as does its revenue -- a massive 31% increase in revenue for the fiscal year 1991 over 1990.

For fiscal year 1991, revenues were $3.221 billion, up 31% from the $2.466 billion reported in fiscal year 1990. Net income for fiscal year 1991 increased more than 70% to $190.3 million, or $1.85 per share, from the $111.2 million, or $1.21 per share, of fiscal year 1990.

Revenues for the fourth quarter were $942.5 million, a 35% increase over the $700.1 million reported in the like period a year ago. Net income for the quarter also increased 35% to $66.4 million, or 63 cents per share, from the $49.1 million, or 51 cents per share, for the corresponding period a year ago.

The company says that it shipped 49,000 units in the quarter, with the SPARCstation 2 accounting for the most sales.

--New York, New York — PC'S INCREASE, NOT DECREASE, WORK

According to a national poll conducted by The Wirthlin Group of 1,000 adults age 18 or over, 69% said that personal computers have not increased their leisure time. In fact, nearly 1/3rd think PCs actually have increased their workloads, causing people to work longer hours.

The survey found that almost 40% of adult Americans use a personal computer, with work being its primary use. Also, 79% use their computers at work; 47% exclusively at work and 32% at work and home. However, only 21% of PC users say that they use a personal computer exclusively at home, indicating that the PC has not been adopted by Americans as a purely recreational, educational or personal enrichment aid.

--Seattlel, Washington — 1,800 TO ATTEND MICROSOFT DEVELOPER'S CONFERENCE

Microsoft Corporation says that more than 1,800 software developers from all over the world will attend a software developers conference which starts this week. Attendees are expecting to get an early look at the next version of Windows. Microsoft says that extraordinary interest on the part of developers has jumped the attendance to three times what the company originally estimated.

--Fort Collins, Colorado

THE EARTH WILL TALK TO YOU FOR $2 PER MINUTE

For $2 per minute, Mother Earth will tell you what you can do for her. Environmation Group has created the service, which mixes humor and simple hints to help the Earth recover from man's predation of her.

The number is 1-900-988-0023, ext. 409, and a portion of the charges go to un-named national non-profit organizations involved in conservation. Sample topics from the line include motor oil recycling, diaper selection, cleaning products, water conservation and efficient lighting.

--Los Angeles, California

PRODIGY "NO PEEKING" PRIVACY DISK OFFERED TO MEMBERS

The Prodigy Interactive Personal Service, an electronic, interactive computer service, is offering a free software disk to fix member concerns more than anything else. Prodigy is offering the disk to "...alay concerns that it was invading the privacy of people who use its electronic information and shopping service," reported the Wall Street Journal.

Prodigy users had discovered files created and accessed by Prodigy, specifically STAGE.DAT and CACHE.DAT on their hard disks contained information they had never offered Prodigy. Though the information was in pieces, users became alarmed.

Prodigy says the problem is an unintentional one, and occurred because of a fluke in the operating system IBM and compatible computers use, and was not anything Prodigy had caused. The company vehemently denies it did or ever had any intention of invading the privacy of users.

The free software disk is a program to erase any old personal information that might be in Prodigy files and to prevent new information from accumulating there, the company said.

The Wall Street Journal reported Prodigy as saying the accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand had audited the service, confirmed its privacy safeguards and has provided a letter to that effect.

Prodigy said members can get information by calling Prodigy Membership Services at (800) 284-5933, or while on Prodigy, jump to TECHTALK.

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> STR Portfolio News & Information   Keeping up to date...
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THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM
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On CompuServe

by Judith Hamner 72257,271

The forum now has another new sysop. Sysop has been added to my title. I look forward to being of service to the members.

Sysop Mike Schoenbach has updated APFCAT.ARC to be current as of August 15. This handy file contains a listing of all files in the libraries, with the exception of library 1 (new uploads). B.J. Gleason has released Pbasic 4.7. PBAS47.ZIP contains bug fixes and several new features. One welcome goody is a utility to reduce the size of source code.

T2.ARC reminds us again of the role of the Port in Terminator 2. This file contains a listing in .adr format of the Terminator 2 collector's cards. AP-ADR.ARC contains a very useful reference guide for the Port in .adr format. Tips, product info, and sources are among the entries. This one deserves a place on everyone's ram card. AP-PGC.ARC contains six .pgc graphics screens. These are for use with PGSHOW which can be found in the graphics library.

Don Thomas, Atari's Portfolio product manager has been a frequent visitor to the forum. There have been some lively debates in Community Square over the cost and feasibility of memory upgrades. The possibilities for 512K ram cards were also discussed. Don also offered a tip on how to add blank lines to an address book entry using the clipboard. Do you want to know how to see the developer's names? John Feagans tells how in Community Square.

Follow the "STbook" thread for some inside info on this new product. Mark Henderson of Xoterix announced that the 512K ram expansion has been withdrawn. That leaves Megabyte as the major source for memory upgrades. Mark also indicated that the 20M hard drive has not gone into production due to a lack of orders. Readers should note that all message references are current at the time of writing. As a service I will insure that those of continuing interest are archived to the forum libraries. Look for the .THR extension in the library.

Editor Note:

Congratualtions!!

> THE FLIP SIDE STR Feature ".. different viewpoint.."

A LITTLE OF THIS, A LITTLE OF THAT

by Michael Lee

The ST Roundtable on Genie has recently had an interesting discussion about surge protectors, lightning strikes and more. I hope you find it as interesting as I did.

All Questions and Answers are from the ST Roundtable on Genie, Cat. 28, Topic 12...

Message #1 - Question from Anthony Dipietro....

I'd like to know if the following is a good practice:

Since I use my computer almost every nite, I've decided to keep it running continuously. I shut off the monitor when not in use to reduce the heat. I shut down the whole system once a week to let it "cool" down. Any things I should be looking for? Does the computer attract more dust, etc. because it's on all the time? Should it be cleaned etc, more often? Anything to look for due to heat build up (ie, any chips that could fail faster due to being left on continuously).

Message #2 - Question and answer from John Spande...

I suspect that the internal hard drive in particular would last longer if you turned off the computer when it's not in use, however, others who know more will hopefully give you a more definitive answer.

I also have a question. I anticipate getting into a situation where I will want to operate my system without benefit of connection to the electric power company and would like to know if inverter (square wave) power for extended periods will shorten the life of computer, monitor, etc? Sine wave UPS's are available, but expensive.

Message #4 - From Mike Dorman...
Anthony--My 520 ST has been on constantly (i.e. down for periods of no longer than, say, 2 weeks, and that maybe once a year, while I'm home from school) for about the last two years. I haven't had any problems.

I *do* shut it off during thunderstorms, however, and I have a hefty power- strip/surge-suppressor.

Message #7 - From Jim Allen (Fast Tech)...
While I worked for a living, we had 12 HP9000 workstations, an HP3000 business system, various lab equipment...usually HP or TEK...and in later years 10 Sun systems and a big server, and in 6 years we turned then off for 2 hurricanes and one Tstorm. No HP ever failed, in nearly 6 years of continuous operation.

I've been gone for two years, and its all still working ;-)

Guess I'd say leave it on.

Message #11 - From Kyle Cordes...
John, using square wave power (if it works, I haven't tried it) would probably at most only shorten the life of your power supplies, which can be replaced for much less than the cost of a whole computer. (Not being an EE, I couldn't tell you whether it will affect the supplies)

Many many systems, St and otherwise, run continuously for years on end; they're called BBSs.

Message #12 - From WAYNED...
RE: Thunderstorms.....
And I might add.... unplug.....unplug.....unplug.....

When our lines got zapped I lost my modem, printer, and about $200 internal damage to my Mega IV (Yamaha chip, IO drivers, 68000, trace on motherboard, etc). I wasn't home, the machine wasn't on, but it was plugged in. It also fried the 27" tv in the living room which also wasn't on, but was plugged in.

Just an FYI for all of ya! Oh yeah, ALL the computer equipment was plugged into surge protectors which don't do diddly in even of a lightning strike. They're only for normal everyday voltage surges which happen all the time on most power lines.

Message #13 - From Randy Walters...
Wayne, I have to disagree with the assessment on surge suppressors not doing diddly for lightning. The type that I use not only protects the power line but also the phone line. This company will also GUARANTEE their suppressors and any equipment plugged into them from power damage, Including Lightning. They will replace the suppressor and pay for the repair of any of the attached equipment that is damaged. (unlimited dollar amount on attached equipment) This unit is an under the monitor type with a clock and several independent power switches. That way you never have to reach for the back of a machine again.

It cost about $170 but that is a small investment compared to the damage that could be incurred using an inferior unit. If you would like any other info. I would be very glad to mail it to you. I do agree that there is a lot of garbage out there that is being sold and

people are finding out the hard way. All that I am really trying to say is that "All surge suppressors are NOT created equal!"

Message #19 - From C.GRIMSBY...

Just a quick note here..."Surge suppressors" are not _designed_ to handle lightning. That doesn't mean that having one on your system won't protect the system from a strike only that they are not designed to do so. Something on the order of using the "claw" on a hammer as a screwdriver. In _some_ cases it'll work.

To protect from lightning you need a "Transient Suppressor." Transient Suppressors cost significantly more than a surge suppressor, but if you live in an area that has frequent thunderstorms, they're worth the investment. It should be noted that Transient Suppressors are not designed to stop small power surges that surge suppressors are designed to to. You _need_ both if your equipment is in a thunderstorm area, and there are voltage surges on the line from such things as vacuum cleaners, intermittent fans, etc.

With the growth of the computer industry, a few devices have shown up that are combinations of these two. So far, no name has 'worked itself out' yet so make sure before you buy what you are getting! In terms of prices, Surge suppressors usually cost around $20, Transient Suppressors around $100 and combined units around $150.

Recently, some articles have appeared questioning the ability of both suppressors working after a period of time. Small 'hits' to the units _tend_ to degrade the components that they use to protect your system. (I'm talking of both Surge Suppressors and Transient Suppressors here.) To date, the question still rages.

In the lab however, it's been shown that after 5 years of 'normal' use, the units degrade to uselessness. In 'real life' experiences, the units have been shown to still be effective after 10 years in use. (One major strike will still take both units out however!) What this means to the consumer is that you _may_ want to replace your suppression units after 5 years, if you haven't suffered a strike, and if you want to be sure. Or you may want to take your chances. It's basically up to the user at this point. Personally, I've had units function quite well after 10 years, and some that are useless after a couple of months. I'm still not sure what to do myself...

Message #20 - From DARLAH (RT Sysop)...

I lost 2 modems to a surge of electricity. I was upset and the local electricity company told me although these surges were higher than usual, it was my problem that they bit the dust. I bought a better surge protector and never a problem afterwards. We did have surges after that but I didn't get the effect. Part of my problem was the way my house was wired. (I have since moved). Some electricians should be shot. They are as bad as some plumbers I know. <grin> Get yourself protected. It is worth it.

Message #22 - From John Spande...

Anthony, thunderstorms are not the only source of line surges and transients and your system is more vulnerable when turned on. If you use it 8 hours a day but leave it on always you have increased your chances 3X.

Suppose your unattended system developed a fault that caused a fire? Extremely improbable yes, but not impossible and the consequences way

out of proportion to undemonstrated benefits.

Then there is the matter of energy stewardship. In the US we use much more energy per person while maintaining a slightly lower standard of living than western Europe and Japan. Conservation is vital and while a few computers may not make a big difference we need to start ’sweating the small stuff’ everywhere possible if we are to put our environmental (and economic) house in order.

BTW, I think a hard drive will last longer running 8 hours (therefore with one power up cycle per day) each day than running 24 hours (and no power up cycle). You might want to check this with a manufacturer, but remember they rate them in MTBF (Mean TIME Between Failures) not mean number of power up/down cycles.

Message #27 - From Mike Jenkins...

Anthony, in my experience in the "mainframe" world (21+ years):

If the area in which the computer resides is relatively free of dust, and has sufficient cooling (nothing sitting on the cooling vents), and has sufficient power protection (surge protector and "clean" electrical lines), has a low humidity (40%), then leave the machine and disk drive on. However, if excess heating occurs, turn the unit off.

The only caveat I had, was from a DEC engineer: "The room temperature must be less than 85 degrees F with a humidity level less than 50%." Apparently, at 85 degrees, the temperature inside the computer would exceed 95 degrees and the components would begin to have problems. We (my old company) placed PC’s, Mac’s, DEC MicroVAX’s, and DEC PC/ Clones in the normal office environment for over 5 years. With the above suggestion, we never had a failure (I’m talking about 30 MicroVAX’s, several hundred (each) PC’s, Clones, and Mac’s!

Personally, I shutdown whenever I’m done. And that’s because I don’t have an UPS, and living in one of the Midwest’s "tornado alley" areas, I don’t trust Mother Nature (the last lightning strike hit the Cable TV box--about 30 feet from my STe, which was off at the time. I do have a Surge Protector for all of the computer peripherals, the computer, and the phone lines. So far, no problem.

Message #29 - From Randy Walters...

Jonesy, I use the EFI EDP-2000 TLS Power Control Center. It has 6 power outlets on the rear panel along with the RJ11 phone plugs. Thus, it protects the equipment from any spikes coming down the phone line. It also has a mode light on the front which is a three way indicator. If it is clear, then there is no power, if it is green then you have power and suppression is working, if it is red then the suppression is no longer working and you need to have the unit repaired. It has front panel switches to control the rear power plugs. It also uses sine wave tracking and voltage smoothing to insure that clamped spikes do not distort the sine wave. A minor point , it does have a built in clock. Last of all is the warranty. They will replace/repair the unit and any of its attached equipment at NO cost to you.

If you don’t need the Power Control Center, there are other units which you can get. Those are power strips or wall units with just power protection or with Phone line protection, or with Cable TV

protection, or with RS232 protection. They even have better diagnostic lights, besides the codes that I described above, they also tell you whether your wall outlet is wired properly. i.e. inverse polarity, no ground and a few others. I have been installing these units now for 4 years and they have performed very well.

I do agree that the best defense for lightning is to have the computer/cable tv/ phone lines all unplugged from every device!!! BUT, if you're like most people who do not do that, buy an EFI. If anyone would like pricing, I will post it. If anyone would like brochures, e-mail your address to me and I will send them. If you would like to buy one, I can help you with that too. I hesitated to go into this detail before because I thought that people would think that I'm just trying to sell the EFI. I am a CE, I have to fix the equipment that is damaged due to power problems!! Thus, I only will advise my customers to use things that will lessen their downtime. (Their downtime = My downtime)

Message #31 - From Gary Gray...

I regularly see ST system boards that are damaged. Here in Texas thunderstorms can occur for days in a row. I have only seen one ST that wouldn't run after damage by an electrical storm. But its failure mode was the same as all the others. They fail at the I/O ports. What happens is the 1488,and 1489 serial drivers get knocked out. Sometimes the MFP and sound chip also are damaged. Not in one case had the power supply failed. The typical failure is at the printer port card. We see these failure over and over. Lighting strikes push current all around a room, the walls, the floor, the desk, the air for that matter. Like Jim Allen said nothing you do if you get a direct strike will make any difference.

Message #32 - From Mike Hill...

Darlah, don't forget that with modems the surge generally comes from the phone lines and not the electrical lines. Everyone should get a surge protector on the phone line too.

I have had three modems since my 8-bit days get shot by surges. And not once did the phones in the house get damaged! One surge went through the modem and into my Mega ST. Blew the MFP chip and the RS232 drivers. Luckily I got an MFP sample from work and fixed all of that.

Needless to say, I unplug the phone line from the modem whenever storms are near and when I leave for a long period of time. Ohio has some nasty storms this time of year. And they can come in very unannounced!

Until next week.....

****

:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

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> MEMORIES STR FOCUS Ah yes.... from earlier this year...
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OF BROKEN PROMISES AND SHATTERED DREAMS
==========

As the room darkens and the thoughts of great things gets brighter and brighter... The greatest feat of all.. the power of recall;

"Oh great power of recall for the Ages...
show the story for this year in stages..."

How many recall the words of Sam;

"... A kinder, gentler Atari."

-- First Quarter 1991: CIS Online Conference with Sam Tramiel

Encouraging quotes excerpted therefrom...

"I cannot exactly tell you when the TT030 will be available Class B. My educated guess is sometime in March."

"Unix will be shown on March 13 at the Hanover faire in Germany. It will be Unix System V.4, X-windows, Motif, and a front-end named "Wish" and I'll ignore the "1991" comment."

"We think that we have a very clear marketing direction. We are trying to sell personal computers to people at the best possible price. Of course, we consider back-up and service by our dealers, and we want to develop a good dealer network. We do plan to sell customers like Circuit City [god willing]. We have no plans at present to sell at K-Mart. The TT030 will definitely be sold through qualified dealers who can explain advanced computer use. I cannot make any projections on new product from a hardware point of view, but we are definitely working on new portable machines. If I announce one now, and don't deliver on time, you'll kill me in STReport."

"I assume that you are talking about Panther. This is a 68000 running at 16MHz game machine which we will probably ship in early 1992. Software is now being written for the Panther. It will even allow for Lynx to network with some games."

How many of the above have come to pass?????

After reading the most recent claims of profitability and "wonders of expert business achievement" proffered to the world by Atari's; Augie Ligouri..

The following statement seems quite appropriate. It would most certainly appear that the Tramiel heirs of Atari have made a most wonderful discovery.....

THE ELUSIVE AND MYSTERIOUS.....

"SECRET OF MAKING A SMALL FORTUNE"
in the highly competitive Wordwide Computer Business!

"Its EASILY done by STARTING with a LARGE FORTUNE!!!"

...from a group of long-time Atari Observers

FLIGHT OF THE INTRUDER

Spectrum Holobyte announced the release and availability of its new very popular Flight of the Intruder for the Commodore Amiga and the Atari ST computers. The game, featuring A-6 and F-4 planes, brings to the computer Stephen Coonts' best selling novel by the same title, which is based on his experiences as a Navy pilot in the Vietnam War.

Flight of the Intruder was also made into a major motion picture by Paramount last year. The movie recently released on videocassette, stars Brad Johnson, Danny Glover and William Dafoe.

Flying either an A-6 Intruder or F-4 Phantom in the computer simulation, players are sent into combat from their base on the carrier USS Shiloh. The action takes place during the 1972 Linebacker campaign over North Vietnam.

Flight of the Intruder features multiple missions in which the pilot is usually part of a larger operation undertaken by one of several sections of aircraft. For example; a section of A-6 Intruders going on a bombing mission would be joined by a section of F-4 Phantoms to protect the bombers from enemy MiGs. In such a mission, players might be assigned to fly either the bomber or the fighter jet.

Typical enemy targets of these daily harrowing bombing missions are strategic bridges, power supply plants, docks and shipping facilities. To be successful, players must be prepared to run the gauntlet of both air and ground defenses. Enemy fighters fly MiG-17s, MiG-19s and MiG-21s armed with cannon and Atoll heat seeking missiles. Major ground threats are SAMS (Surface to Air Missiles) and Flak.

Players may also choose to take on the role of Mission Commander. In this multiple stage planning role, players select primary and secondary targets, choose weapons and other external stores, select waypoints for setting up their desired route and decide aircraft departure times and duties. The Mission Commander can fly any aircraft in the mission and also switch aircraft mid-mission to keep up with the ever-changing action.

Flight of the Intruder features full color graphics and sound support for both the ST and the Amiga. The ST version requires TOS version 1.6 or earlier. Both formats are available for a suggested retail price of $59.95.

> ATARIVILLE STR Feature "...our little town is in trouble.."
  ==========

ATARIVILLE

By FREDTUT (in the Delphi library)

My Hometown

I'd like to tell you about the little town I live in. It's called Atariville. It's a nice, small community, out a ways from the better known, and bigger, cities of Macopolis and Big Blue City. But it's a nice little place, with quite a bit to offer its citizens. We have stores to shop in, clubs to belong to, and even politics to get involved in, should we be of that mind.

But, our little town is in trouble, folks, and I want to tell you about it.

Our town fathers, who have run the place since it began, rule with an iron fist. Well, they try to, anyways. They come up with all kinds of particular ways to make the town into what they want it to be. But, being independent sorts, someone always seems to come along and do it some other way. We can feel the heat coming from town hall, and sometimes even hear a cuss word or two, but folks here like to think that they have some brains, too. And that just maybe, the town fathers don't always know what's best for Atariville. And judging from the way our community has diminished, that may not be wrong. I guess problems happen when you don't listen enough to the citizens, and make up rules without regard to what they want, or need.

I won't even go into the rest of the political situation. Like anywhere, most of the politicians are in it for themselves, and rarely represent the actual interests of the citizens. We got crusaders, out to save us from ourselves. We got good ol' boys, set in their ways and not about to change for nobody. We got sheep, who follow the town fathers wherever they get led, even if it is to the slaughterhouse. But mostly, we got a bunch of folks who just want to live their lives, the best they can.

Now, if the community was strong, and healthy, we could withstand a lot of that politics stuff. But that just isn't the case, and all that politicin' just makes things worse, sometimes. If those folks'd spend a little less time trying to get in good with the town fathers, and a little more time trying to help the community, we'd be in a lot better shape. We just can't afford any more petty bickering amongst ourselves. Atariville is losing folks all the time to the lure of the big city, and our storekeepers have been hurting for quite a while. We've lost too many of the good shops already. And there just aren't that many left.

Now, I don’t want to make it sound like our little downtown isn’t worth a visit now and then. We may not have as many stores as the cities, but the ones we have sell pretty much everything we need. Oh, the selection isn’t as varied, but what there is is well made, and lasting. The kind of stuff folks used to call ’good value’. But that doesn’t seem to help sell enough to keep all the shops in business. You see, our local shopkeepers need new blood in town, so they can do enough business to keep their families fed.

Of course, the town fathers keep coming up with ideas to bring new folks into town. And even their most vocal critics here in town have to admit that some of those ideas are pretty good. But with the way they’ve handled things in the past, it might be a good idea if they’d just let someone who knows what they’re doing implement the ideas. A while back, for instance, they tried to get a bunch of musicians to move into town. Quite a few did for a while, but the town fathers got rid of the guy who was running the effort. And as a result, the influx had slowed down in the last few months. Now, the town fathers are working on getting some renewed interest from musicians. And, you know, I’ll bet it works.

Here recently, their big push has been in trying to get a big printing plant to move into town. Most of the printing plants are already in the big cities, and it’s going to take a lot to get them to move way out here in the sticks. But a lot of folks agree with the town fathers that a printing plant will help things out. And are working on making it happen. If it all works out, it’ll be nice. But that’s a big if. There doesn’t seem to be a lot of energy left to work on other things that might help our little community, so I hope things don’t slip by because the town fathers are too busy with this ’pet’ project of theirs.

And then I wonder just how many folks a printing plant is going to really bring into town. Sure, there’ll be some, but I don’t think it’s going to be enough to help our storekeepers. Some will do real well, but the kind of folks that a printing plant will bring in are already used to big city ways, and a lot of our smaller shops probably aren’t going to see much new business. It’s too bad, because some of those small shops have been among the strongest supporters our town has. It’d be a damn shame if they don’t get some benefits from all the effort the town fathers are putting into that printing plant.

It’s really a sad thing when our local stores close up. It means the rest of us aren’t going to be able to get the things we need. And some are going to leave town, so they can find what they need in the big cities. And our little community will be a little worse off. And a little closer to dying out altogether.

But what really sticks in my craw, is that the town fathers don’t seem to want to do some really basic things that would bring folks into town. We don’t have enough lots for people to build their houses on. There are folks out there, who would build homes, and nice homes, if they could only get a lot to build it on. But, the town fathers just don’t make the lots available. There are some rumors that they own land in another county, and are making lots available there, so they don’t need to do that here. That’s just silly. It’s two different places. Why does one have to grow at the expense of the other? Why not help both of them grow?

Of course, there are all those empty homes that are left from folks who’ve moved to the big cities. We could get people to move into them, but that wouldn’t help as much as getting a bunch of new houses built on

some new lots. When you're building a new house, you need to spend a lot of money getting things comfortable. When someone buys an already existing house, there is only minor remodeling to do, and a lot less money gets spent. And as bad as some of our shopkeepers are doing, the more money that gets spent, the better.

Another thing that really gets me is how our town fathers change their minds all the time. Just when something starts rolling, they decide to concentrate on something else. I don't know why, and most of us in town just sit here and scratch our heads in amazement. Is a little consistency too much to ask for? One time, they even built a whole new building, a beautiful place, and for some reason, couldn't get it to pass the building inspection. Oh, some folks used it anyway, but now, the town fathers are building another beautiful building, and aren't going to do anything about getting the first one fixed. The old one is just going to sit there, and eventually rot away. I sure hope the new one passes the inspection. Before they change their minds again, and start another project!

Like I said, Atariville is hurting, like many other communities in this great big land of ours. Others have done what they need to do to put themselves back on the road to recovery. I hope the town fathers will wake up to the facts, and get Atariville on that road. That's the kind of thing that everybody in the community can get behind, and help make a reality. But we'd better get on that road soon, or we're going to be so far behind, that Atariville is going to just wither up and blow away.

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> MULTI-DESK DELUXE! STR InfoFile      "A Sneak Preview From CodeHead!"
  ==============================


 CodeHeadQuarters
 Friday, August 16, 1991
 -----------------------

##############################################################################


   A Sneak Preview From CodeHead Software...the Rebirth of MultiDesk
   -----------------------------------------------------------------


   CodeHead Software will shortly be releasing an amazing, totally
   revamped version of MultiDesk called:


                        ************************
                        *                      *
                        *  MultiDesk Deluxe!!  *
                        *                      *
                        ************************
```

We’re not yet ready to present a full press release describing all of MultiDesk Deluxe’s features but we _can_ tell you a little bit about its unique break-through in versatility, offering previously untapped computing power.

MultiDesk Deluxe gives you the flexibility of Atari’s XControl Panel, but with the ability to reuse your current accessories rather than limiting you to current CPX availability and feature limitations.

While it will retain the resident accessory loading features that have always existed in MultiDesk, MultiDesk Deluxe will give you an additional area for accessories to be loaded from disk whenever you need them. These non-resident accessories will all share the same memory area, allowing it to be reused without limit!

The final result of MultiDesk Deluxe is that you can now use LESS MEMORY, boot up FASTER, and use MORE ACCESSORIES!

- o No longer does your MultiDesk buffer need to be large enough to hold those accessories which you seldom use.

- o Non-resident accessories are only loaded when you need them so only a split-second is required at bootup time for MultiDesk Deluxe to read the names of the available accessories.

- o MultiDesk Deluxe now lets you use up to * 96 * accessories while consuming only a fraction of its former memory usage!

We’re off to Germany to attend the Duesseldorf show, but we’ll be back to tell you all about MultiDesk Deluxe! Projected release date for MultiDesk Deluxe is September 14th. You won’t be disappointed.

##

Dispelling a nasty rumor...

CodeHead Software *IS* Developing a New Product For Atari Computers

The recent August issue of Atari Interface Magazine included feature articles and reviews of many of our products. We’d like to thank Bill and Pattie Rayl for a very well-done issue which accurately describes many of the basic as well as the advanced features of our software. But as great as this exposure was, it seems many people have focused an one small paragraph in the issue.

"Now, the bad news." That’s exactly how the paragraph in "Editorial Ramblings" started out. This editorial went on to point out that the CodeHeads are registered Macintosh developers and that "While the CodeHeads will continue to support their current products in the Atari market, they ’currently have no plans to release any new products for the Atari market.’"

While these statements are true (or were true when they were made), they have been grossly misinterpreted by many readers. We've had several comments from people who say "I'm sorry to hear you're abandoning the Atari market." Nothing could be further from the truth.

We'd like to make it clear that we in no way blame Bill and Pattie Rayl or Atari Interface Magazine for this misunderstanding. They accurately reported the quote as well as confirming with us on the phone before printing it.

We've made the statement about not planning any new products several times and are only beginning to realize what a mistake it is to say this. It just doesn't make good business sense for a number of reasons:

- o There are probably only a few (if any) Atari developers who ARE currently planning any new releases, but they don't publicize this fact.

- o We've always stated in the same breath that we will continue to support our existing products as long as there are even a couple of inches of the Atari ship above water, but this is usually ignored.

- o We made the same statement (about no new products) before releasing our CodeKeys program a year ago but it didn't stop us from writing and releasing this useful tool.

- o We ARE currently planning a new release for the Atari market!!!

We're not ready to present a full press release yet, but we are developing a MIDI recorder called MIDI Spy. It is an accessory which records and plays back MIDI data in the background. It's always recording so you'll never lose another valuable musical idea. Full details about MIDI Spy will be released in an upcoming press release.

This is something musicians have been waiting for!

##

> Hard Disks STR InfoFile ***** ABCO SUMMER '91 SPECIALS! *****
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> A "Quotable Quote" STReport's Editorial "Cartoon"
  ==========

"Atari Corp. is one of the largest companies in the world manufacturing and marketing personal computers and video games for the home, office and educational marketplaces."

"""

STReport International Online Magazine

Available through more than 10,000 Private BBS systems WorldWide!

"""

STReport "YOUR INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE" August 16, 1991

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